



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-2988)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio,
Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews
and Commissioner Susan Burton

Excused: Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Anne S.
Hill

Call to Order. (13-2873)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of the June 12, 2013 Minutes. (13-2875)

**On motion of Commissioner Donald Andrews, seconded by Vice
Chairperson Frank S. Bacio and unanimously carried, the minutes of June
12, 2013 were approved with the following correction:**

**Page 2, agenda Item number 4, first paragraph should read, "...attended by
Chairperson Montañó, ~~Vice Chairperson Bacio~~, Commissioner Andrews
and Commissioner Grills, on..."**

**To address the concern raised by Commissioner Andrews at the June 12,
2013 meeting regarding meeting attendance, Commissioner Burton
inquired about the guidelines and policies on the Commissioners**

attendance.

She stated that she was not aware of any specific and/or strict requirement for attendance. Commissioner Andrews responded that it is his opinion that the Commission will function better if all the Commissioners are present at the meeting. He further stated that the main reason for any Commissioner to be absent should either be for family emergencies, sickness and/or death in the family. He added that being too busy with other outside involvement should not be a valid excuse for a Commissioner to be absent from the Commission's meetings, as that kind of excuse defies the purpose of serving as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Burton clarified that although she is not able to be present at the Commission's meetings at all times, all her work and other involvement in the communities, including attending the Board meetings, ties into the mission of the Commission, which is to ensure the well-being of the Los Angeles County citizens that are incarcerated.

Vice Chairperson Bacio concurred that having all the Commissioners present does help to further the business of the Commission. He added that for this reason he modified his schedule to ensure that he is at the meetings even if he is not able to conduct other inspections.

Chairperson Montaña clarified that the Commissioners should contact her if they are going to be absent. Although it is okay to contact the staff regarding absences, the Chairperson prefers to be notified directly.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 2.** Recommendation to re-review the approved revisions of the Sybil Brand Commission Group Home Inspection Form. (Cont'd from Meeting of May 5, 2013) (13-2301)

Chairperson Montaña requested that this item be continued to the June 26, 2013 meeting.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

- 3.** Department Representatives Reports for June 19, 2013.
 - Department of Auditor-Controller

- Monthly Report
- Department of Children and Family Services
 - Monthly Report
 - Youth Extracurricular Activities
- Internal Services Department
 - Monthly Report
- Department of Mental Health
 - Monthly Report
- Probation Department
 - Monthly Report
 - Youth Extracurricular Activities
- Sheriff's Department
 - Monthly Report
 - Torrance Court Branch
 - SBC Lock-up Facilities Inspection Form (13-2414)

DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR CONTROLLER'S (AC)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of May 2013 as follows:

- **12 Total phone calls:**
 - **7 Youth Callers**
 - **5 Adults Callers**
- **8 Total calls related to the following:**
 - **Collaboration Contacts/Referrals/Information**
 - **2 ILP Ombudsman**
 - **1 Child Protection Hotline**
 - **4 Group Home**
 - **1 General Inquiries**
- **4 Total Calls by Youth related to the following:**
 - **2 Personal Rights**
 - **1 Respect (McKinley)**

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- **1 Food (Crittenton)**
 - **2 Personal**
 - **2 Fear, Threats, Intimidation (David & Margaret)**
 - **7 Visits/Outreach**
 - **1 Aviva Family and Children's Services**
 - **1 Crittenton – Orange County**
 - **2 Pennacle Foundation**
 - **3 South Bay Bright Future**

The issue regarding the youth extracurricular activities was continued to the next Business meeting because Commissioner Grills was not available to relay her concerns.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

Ms. Rhonda Shirley-David, Children Services Administrator III, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, thanked Chairperson Montaña for attending the Group Home Forum Quarterly Meeting on June 7, 2013. Ms. Shirley-David reported the following:

- **8 Closed Referrals**
 - **1 General Neglect**
 - **1 Evaluated Out**
 - **4 Physical Abuse**
 - **1 Inconclusive**
 - **3 Unfounded**
 - **1 Sexual Abuse**
 - **1 Unfounded**
 - **2 Emotional Abuse**
 - **2 Evaluated Out**
- **16 Child abuse hotline referrals received**
 - **6 Physical Abuse**
 - **4 General Neglect**
 - **2 Emotional Abuse**
 - **4 Sexual Abuse**

She further reported on the incidents report on the youth that were Absent Without Leave (AWOL) during the following reporting periods:

- From May 15 - 31, 2013 there were 402 AWOLs
- From June 1 - 18, 2013 there were 462 AWOLs

Ms. Shirley-David reported that Ms. Bolanos Gonzalez of DCFS will provide the information that was requested by the Commission at the next Business meeting.

INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ISD)

Mr. Brian Lear, Building Crafts Superintendent, ISD, reported that he inspected the conditions at Eastlake Juvenile Courthouse along with the ISD Second District Manager as requested by Vice Chairperson Bacio. Following Mr. Lear's inspection, ISD was able to replace the missing ceiling tiles and the fluorescent lighting and fixtures in the exit signs. He further stated that some of the ceiling tiles were torn down due to flood damage and asbestos, and they are waiting for the Probation Department to sign off on the repair. He also stated that a request for new security screens that were missing in a few of the windows between the lock-up and the administration building have been ordered. Mr. Lear reported that American Building Maintenance (ABM) Janitorial Services, Inc. is the State contractor and exclusively supports the courthouses while ISD takes care of the hallways, bathrooms and lock-up areas for the Probation Department. He also stated that the Sheriff's Department oversees the adult lock-up areas.

Commissioner Burton reported that she and Commissioner Grills recently inspected and determined that Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse was also in disarray. Mr. Lear responded that he will follow-up with an inspection of the site.

MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (MHD)

Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg, MHD, reporting for Paul McIver, stated that their Department is nearing the end of this fiscal year and is very busy working with agencies that are renewing their contracts to ensure no disruption of services. She stated that the office has not ran into any major problems and is running smoothly.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT (PD)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Placement Permanency & Quality Assurance, PD,

reported on the status of AWOLs for the month of May 2013 as follows:

- **131 AWOLS**
 - 111 Youth Involved
 - 14 were repeat offenders
 - 47 Remain AWOL
 - 36 Returned to Group Home
 - 21 Juvenile Hall
 - 1 Termed Out
 - 3 Home on Probation
 - 3 Camp

Ms. Pease also reported that there were no group homes on hold for the month of May 2013.

The following referrals were reported:

- **3 Child Abuse Referrals**
 - 3 Unfounded
 - 2 Physical Abuse
 - 1 General Neglect
- **8 Group Home Investigations**
 - 5 Unfounded
 - 3 Substantiated

The investigations were:

- **Penny Lane, Sat X** - Two youth branded happy faces into their hands leaving burn marks. The issue of no supervision was unfounded.
- **Maryvale** - Group Home took youths to a Dodger game without prior approval from the DPO and a youth subsequently went AWOL. Allegation was unfounded.
- **Optimist, Eagle Rock** - Staff failed to give a youth their morning medication. Allegation was substantiated.
- **Unknown Agency** - Citizen made a complaint to the Board of Supervisors that whenever a Group Home dog is being walked by the group home staff and youth, the dog was always defecating on his lawn without cleaning it up. Investigation concluded that the home the

citizen complained about was not a licensed group home. Allegation was unfounded.

- Trinity El Monte - Youth stole several vials of lidocaine from the dentist office and passed out three vials to other youth at the group home. Vials were confiscated. Supervision at the dentist office was investigated, and although the group home was not found to be out of compliance, they still completed a corrective action plan (CAP) to ensure measures are taken for future appointments. Allegation was unfounded.
- San Gabriel Children's Center - Group Home failed to inform Probation directors of a serious incident during non-business hours. Allegation was substantiated.
- Florence Crittenton - Youth ingested 27 Triple C pills and an additional 57 Triple C pills were confiscated. Allegation for supervision issues was unfounded.
- Children Are Our Future (Terry House) - Commissioners Bigby and Hill reported that the group home failed to comply with the submitted CAP after three visits. A Sybil Brand Commission referral on May 15, 2013 was substantiated and corrections were made.
- Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation – Commissioners Burton and Grills reported the home was conducted like a boot camp. A Sybil Brand Commission referral on April 21, 2013 was substantiated and the Probation Department issued a CAP to the group home. Commissioner Burton requested a copy of the corrective action plan from Ms. Pease.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (SD)

Commander Warren Asmus, SD, reported that the new Long Beach jail capacity is 600; the basement and first floor lock-up capacity is 300 and the 15 satellite lock-ups has an additional capacity of 300. He also reminded Commissioners that he is planning to schedule them for a tour of the George Deukmejian Courthouse Long Beach sometime in July 2013. In addition, the Long Beach Police Department will be temporarily working collaboratively with SD on new bookings. The state-of-the-art facility, George Deukmejian Courthouse Long Beach may open by mid-September 2013.

Commander Asmus further stated that the closure of the courthouses as well as the scheduled layoffs began the week of June 10, 2013. He announced that for now the Beverly Hills Courthouse will remain open. The East Los Angeles Courthouse is facing challenges in transporting inmates to the court because the only elevator designated to transport inmates has a capacity of six inmates at a time. He further stated that Judge David Wesley, Presiding Judge of Superior Court, extended the courthouse closures date to June 30, 2013, using a skeleton crew so that the public may continue to conduct business. In response to Chairperson Montaña's question, Commander Asmus indicated that he is not sure what will happen to the old courthouse.

Commander Asmus further advised the Commission that he has requested the Sheriff Custody Division to review the Commission's lock-up facilities inspection form and provide a feedback at the next Business meeting.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Chairperson's Report on various items for June 19, 2013. (13-2876)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles:

- Los Angeles Times:
 - First the jails, now foster care (June 13, 2013)
 - County severs ties to foster agency (June 12, 2013)
 - Move could further stress foster system (June 12, 2013)
 - Gabriel Fernandez Remembered (June 13, 2013)
- Daily Breeze:
 - Residents answer plea for local foster parents (June 13, 2013)

Chairperson Montaña thanked Commission Services' staff, Bolaji Famuyiwa and Nyla Jefferson, for doing an excellent job in coordinating the Sybil Brand Commission's Scholarship Awards Breakfast and Presentation.

Commissioner Burton inquired if the scholarship application should be limited to the group home and foster youth in the future. She advised that the Commission may want to consider revising the scholarship application to indicate that only foster youth should apply.

Commissioner Andrews further inquired if the scholarship should be

restricted to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department youth only, considering that the inspection of the foster homes is not part of the Commission's charge. Commissioner Bigby clarified that the Commission decided to extend the application to the foster youth a couple of years back because there was very limited responses from DCFS and Probation Department youth in the past. Commissioner Burton then recommended that the scholarship application should be revised to indicate that the scholarship is for DCFS and Probation Department youth, as well as, foster youth. This item was continued to the next meeting agenda for further discussion and action.

Commissioner Bigby reported that she visited her Supervisor, Michael Antonovich, to discuss her concerns regarding the publicity that the Teen Happy Home has received concerning its closure and student internships.

Commissioner Burton stated that the difficulty lies more on the laborious recruiting processes required for the short period of time that the intern may work at a group home. In addition, she stated that now may be a good time to reevaluate and streamline the recruiting processes and to also include the college students to participate in a mentoring program to assist the youth with homework, life books, and other social activities. She further recommended that each Commissioner may want to go to their individual Supervisor to emphasize the importance of streamlining the processes for recruiting social workers.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

5. Treasurer's Report for June 19, 2013. (13-2877)

Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio reported that as of June 18, 2013 the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1390.96. This includes the encumbrance of three checks written for \$300 for each scholarship recipient. The account balance is \$490.96.

6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for June 19, 2013. (13-2878)

There was no staff report given.

7. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on June 19, 2013. (13-2879)

There were no monitoring audit reports given.

8. Commissioners Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from June 13, 2013 to June 18, 2013. (13-2880)

During the reporting period, the following Lock-up Facility was reported as being in unsatisfactory condition:

- **Commissioners Burton and Grills visited Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse on June 14, 2013. The Commissioners determined that the lock-up was in need of extensive repair and painting therefore requested that the findings be reported to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Burton informed Brian Lear, ISD, of her concerns.**

The facility was in the following condition:

- **The kitchen and showers were not suitable**
- **No phone availability**
- **Graffiti was found in the lock-up**
- **No landscaping in the walk-through area**
- **Tile was missing from the floor**
- **Asbestos was in the concrete floors**
- **Staff had no office – just a desk**
- **No water fountains for inmates**
- **There was no radio**
- **No turnout gear**

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited the Dubnoff Center, Page 14, #1, on June 17, 2013.**
- **Commissioner Bigby visited Bourne, Inc., Page 2, #3, on June 14, 2013.**
- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Casa Esperanza Treatment Center, Page 42, #2, on May 28, 2013. He mentioned that the planks on the patio deck need replacing.**

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters

requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-2881)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-2882)

Mr. Anthony Liguata, Children Are Our Future Group Homes (CAOF), introduced Ms. Sandra Harris and Mr. Michael Liguata both from CAOF, and advised that he would like the Commission to know that CAOF wants to maintain a good rapport with the Commission and are in support of any of the request that the Commission may have of them. Mr. Michael Liguata stated that he never received the first corrective action plan issued by the Commission; therefore, was unable to comply in a timely manner. He further stated that he has met with his supervisors and instructed them to hand deliver any correspondence or reports to him directly.

Commissioner Andrews addressed an email from Ms. Harris regarding the proper filing location of the Needs and Services Plans (NSP). Ms. Harris stated that when the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) was established, she was of the understanding that the NSPs were confidential and should be kept at the main office, and upon request, should be made available within 30 minutes. Presently, she is aware that the NSPs are to be kept at the group homes.

Ms. Shirley-David reported that the Community Care Licensing Office informed her that the NSPs are to remain at the group home sites.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment for the meeting of June 19, 2013 (13-2883)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of June 19, 2013 at 11:53 a.m.